

In the Specification:

Page 1, on the line after the title of the invention, please insert the following paragraph:

--CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

This application is a division of Serial No. 09/380,794, filed September 9, 1999, which is a 371 of PCT/JP98/00969, filed March 10, 1998, both of which are being incorporated in their entirety herein by reference.- -

Please amend the Abstract as follows:

~~At the time of coding input image and audio data, and decoding coded video and audio data by using a computer, the amount of computation required per unit time becomes enormous, whereby it has been very difficult to carry out coding and decoding in real time.~~

~~As for coding methods in accordance with the present invention, a~~ The present invention includes methods and apparatus for attaining high speed coding and decoding. A
~~first method is a method wherein~~ decreases the number of memory access times by performing signal format conversion, orthogonal transform and continuous variable-length coding ~~are carried out continuously~~ with predetermined small areas in a frame used as units, and the number of memory access times is decreased, whereby high speed processing is attained. A second method is a method wherein omits orthogonal transform computation is ~~omitted~~ by using orthogonal transform coefficients, whereby processing time is shortened to shorten the processing time. A third method is a method wherein, in uses additions and subtractions used for orthogonal transform and the like, the number of registers to be used is decreased, and the number of memory access times is reduced, whereby high speed processing is attained thereby decreasing the number of registers used and reducing the number of memory access times. The ~~decoding method in accordance with the present~~

invention further includes a decoding method for ~~is a method wherein,~~ in variable-length decoding; wherein table size is not made larger; because the number of table access times per code word is set to a maximum of 2 ~~at the maximum~~, and plural code words are decoded by one table access operation, ~~whereby high-speed decoding is attained~~ to attain high-speed decoding.

Please replace the current title with the following title:

-- CODING METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR INPUT IMAGE DATA
AND A RECORDING MEDIUM PERFORMING SUCH METHOD--.